

Statement by Chairman Chet Edwards on VFW Congressional Award

(Washington, D.C.) - Congressman Chet Edwards released the following statement after it was announced that he will be honored with the 2008 Congressional Award from the Veterans of Foreign Wars, America's oldest major veterans' organization. "It is a privilege to work alongside the VFW to improve health care and benefits for America's veterans, and I am deeply humbled by this honor," said Edwards, Chairman of the House Military Construction and Veterans Affairs Appropriations Subcommittee. "This historic \$11.8 billion funding increase represents a new day for veterans and their families, and they have earned every dime of it through their service and sacrifice for country."

In his first year as Chairman in 2007, Edwards authored \$11.8 billion in increased veterans' health care and benefits in three separate pieces of legislation, the largest increase in veterans funding in the 77-year history of the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). According to the VFW,

Edwards is only the fourth Texan to receive the VFW Congressional Award. The others were Rep. Olin Teague (D-6th), Edwards' former boss and mentor, in 1969, Rep. George H. Mahon (D-19th) in 1974, and Sen. John Tower (R) in 1983.